

2003P09833WO

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Claims

1. A method of processing calls comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a call that specifies a destination address wherein the destination address is identical to a subscriber's regular directory number;
 - determining at a first network element (105) whether re-directing of the call to a second network element (130) is active, and if active:
 - redirecting the call to said second network element (130);
 - checking at the second network element (130) whether at least one of simultaneous and sequential routing is active, and if active, accessing a list listing a plurality of destinations; and
 - originating call legs for destinations in the list according to the results of the checking step;
 - and if not active, applying default routing of the call to a subscriber destination corresponding to said regular directory number.
13. A system for processing calls, the system comprising:
 - a first network element (105) for receiving a call that specifies a destination address wherein the destination address is identical to a subscriber's regular directory number, the first network element (105) having means for determining whether redirecting the call to a second network element (130) is active, and if active, redirecting the call to said second network element (130); and if not active, applying default routing of the call to a subscriber destination corresponding to said regular directory number;
 - a means associated with the second network element (130) for checking whether at least one of simultaneous and sequential routing is active, and if active, accessing a list listing a plurality of destinations; and
 - a means for originating call legs for destinations in the list according to the results of the checking step.

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Claims

1. A method of processing calls comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a call that specifies a destination address;
 - 5 - determining at a first network element (100) whether re-directing of the call to a second network element (130) is active, and if active, redirecting the call to said second network element (130);
 - checking at the second network element (130) whether at
10 least one of simultaneous and sequential routing is active, and if active, accessing a list listing a plurality of destinations; and
 - originating call legs for destinations in the list according to the results of the checking step.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether redirecting of the call is active comprises the step of querying a local number portability database or evaluating a terminating attempt advanced intelligent
20 network trigger.
3. The method of any of the claims 1 or 2, wherein the step of redirecting the call comprises redirecting the call to a softswitch.
- 25 4. The method of any of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the originating step simultaneously originates a plurality of call legs when the checking step determines that simultaneous routing is active.
- 30 5. The method of any of the claims 1 through 4, wherein the originating step sequentially originates a plurality of call legs when the checking step determines that sequential routing is active.
- 35 6. The method of any of the claims 1 through 5, wherein the step of checking comprises a step of checking at least

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one of the routing parameters time of day, day of week,
and calling party identity.

- 5 7. The method of any of the claims 1 through 6, further comprising starting a timer for timing duration of the originated call legs.
- 10 8. The method of any of the claims 1 through 7, further comprising checking a timer for expiration, and if expired, disconnecting any originated call legs.
- 15 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising routing the received call to the destination address using default processing.
- 20 10. The method of any of the claims 1 through 9, further comprising detecting an answer by one of originated legs and completing a call connection.
- 25 11. The method of any of the claims 1 through 10, further comprising updating call statuses when one of the call legs is answered.
- 30 12. The method of any of the claims 1 through 11, wherein the originating step originates a combination of simultaneously originated call legs and sequentially originated call legs as determined by the checking step.
- 35 13. A system for processing calls, the system comprising:
- a first network element (105) for receiving a call that specifies a destination address, the first network element (105) having means for determining whether redirecting the call to a second network element (130) is active, and if active, redirecting the call to said second network element (130);
- a means associated with the at the second network element (130) for checking whether at least one of simultaneous

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and sequential routing is active, and if active, ~~access-~~
ing a list listing a plurality of destinations; and
- a means for ~~originating~~ call legs for destinations in the
~~list~~ according to the results of the checking step.

- 5
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first network element
(105) comprises means for querying a local number port-
ability database or evaluating a terminating attempt ad-
vanced intelligent network trigger in order to determine
10 whether redirecting of the call is active
15. The system of any of the claims 13 or 14, wherein the
second network element (130) comprises a softswitch.
- 15 16. The system of any of the claims 13 through 15, wherein
the means for originating call legs simultaneously origi-
nates a plurality of call legs if the checking step de-
termines that simultaneous routing is active and sequen-
tially originates a plurality of calls if the checking
20 step determines that sequential routing is active.
- 25 17. The system of any of the claims 13 through 16, wherein
the means for checking provides for checking parameters
that include at least one of time of day, day of week,
and calling party identity, the parameters controlling
conditions when the originating step occurs.
- 30 18. The system of any of the claims 13 through 17, further
comprising a means for starting a timer for timing dura-
tion of the simultaneously originated call legs.
- 35 19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a means for
checking the timer for expiration, and if expired, aban-
doning the simultaneously originated call legs.
20. The system of any of the claims 13 through 19, further
comprising a means for routing the received call to the
destination address using default processing.

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21. The system of any of the claims 13 through 20, further comprising a means for detecting an answer by an originated call leg and completing a call connection.
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22. The system of any of the claims 13 through 21, further comprising a means for updating call statuses when one of the call legs is answered.
- 10
23. The system of any of the claims 13 through 22, wherein the means for originating is one of a gateway and a soft-switch.
- 15
24. The system of any of the claims 13 through 23, wherein the means for originating call legs originates a combination of simultaneously originated call legs and sequentially originated call legs.

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